

Columbus Democrat.

VOL. 1.

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1837.

NO. 14.

THE DEMOCRAT

IS EDITED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY

WORTHINGTON & LESTER,

Publishers of the United States Laws.

TERMS OF THE PAPER—\$3 per annum in advance,

or \$6 at the end of the year.

No subscription will be received for a less term than

six months, and no paper will be discontinued,

(except at the discretion of the Editors) until all

arrearages have been paid.

Advertisements will be inserted at \$1 per square

(8 lines or less) for the first insertion, and 50 cents

for each subsequent insertion.

Advertisements not marked with the number of in-

sertions, will be published until forbid and charged

accordingly.

Publications of a personal nature will be charged

double price.

Letters to the Editors on business connected

with the office, must be post paid, or they will not

be attended to.

DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

For Governor,

ALEXANDER G. McNUTT.

For Secretary of State,

BARRY W. BENSON.

For Auditor of Public Accounts,

A. B. SAUNDERS, JOHN H. MALLORY.

For State Treasurer,

GEORGE R. FALL.

For Attorney-General,

JACOB THOMPSON.

Lowndes County Democratic Ticket—For Senator,

TILGHMAN M. TUCKER.

For Representatives,

WILLIAM G. WRIGHT,

SAMUEL BUTLER,

JOSEPH S. LEAKE,

JOHN GILMER.

We are authorized to announce S. S. B.

FIELDS as a candidate for the Legislature.

We are authorized to announce William

Ward, Esq. District No. 1, N. E. Wright, Esq.

No. 2, Hon. Nimrod Davis, No. 3, Jos. B. Pletch,

No. 4, L. S. Wilkins, No. 5, as a candidate for Police

J. G. of the county of Lowndes.

We are authorized to announce SAMUEL

WRIGHT as a candidate for Major of Reg. 13,

2d Brigade, 4th Division of the Militia.

Capt. JESSE V. CROSS is a candidate for

Lieutenant Colonel of Reg. 19, 2d Brig. 4th Division

of the Militia of this State.

WILLIAM E. WELLS, Esq., is a candidate for

re-election to the office of County Surveyor.

We are authorized to announce GEORGE B.

WARRS, Esq., as a candidate for the office of Assessor

and Tax Collector at the ensuing November election.

We are authorized to announce LEWIS

GRIFFIN as a candidate for Lieutenant Colonel.

The election will take place on Saturday, 21st inst.

We are authorized to announce JOHN W.

BYRN as a candidate for the office of Sheriff

of Lowndes County.

We are authorized to announce JAMES H.

TURNER, as a candidate for the office of Sheriff

of Lowndes County.

We are authorized to announce Ovip P.

BRADY as a candidate for the office of Clerk of the

Circuit Court of Lowndes county.

We are authorized to announce R. D. HADEN

as a candidate for clerk of the Probates court of

Lowndes county.

We are authorized to announce WILLIAM R.

SMITH, as a candidate for the office of Clerk

of the Circuit Court for the county of Lowndes,

at the ensuing election.

We are authorized to announce Jno. NEWTON

MURKIN as a candidate for the office of County

Treasurer, at the ensuing November election.

We are authorized to announce D. C. RICH-

ARDS, as a candidate for Assessor and Collector at

the ensuing election.

We are authorized to announce Col. Bess.

ESTES, as a candidate for Senator for Lowndes C. Co.

We are authorized to announce GEORGE B.

SANDERSON, as a candidate to represent the

county of Monroe in the State Legislature.

We are authorized to announce Dr. W. G. W.

WATKINS as a candidate to represent Monroe county

in the Legislature at the ensuing session.

We are authorized to announce SAMUEL RAS-

DALE as a candidate to represent Monroe county in

the State Senate, at the ensuing session.

We are authorized to announce H. S. BEN-

NETT Esq. of this place as a candidate for the office

of District Attorney for the 6th Judicial District of

Mississippi, composed of the counties of Lowndes,

Norube, Kemper, Winston, and Oktibbeha.

We are authorized to announce GEORGE H.

MURPHY, Esq. of Starkeville, as a candidate for

the office of District Attorney for the 6th Judicial

District of Mississippi composed of the counties of

Lowndes, Norube, Kemper, Winston, and Oktibbeha.

We are authorized to announce JAMES W.

WATKINS, Esq., as a candidate to represent the Senatorial

District, composed of the counties of Oktibbeha and

Choctaw at the ensuing session.

We are authorized to announce THOMAS

P. COLLINS of Jackson, as a candidate for the office

of Attorney General of the State of Mississippi,

at the November election.

We are authorized to announce Col. F. Oak-

ley, as a candidate to represent Oktibbeha and

COLUMBUS, MISS.

We have thrown together to day a number of extracts from letters addressed to us from various parts of the State during the last twelve or fifteen days. They will serve to show how the current of public opinion is setting. The democratic ticket will unquestionably succeed by a large majority. But we beg our friends to be on the alert—Let not apathy or too great confidence in the success of our party keep any man from the polls. We gained a glorious victory in July, let us follow it up with a still more glorious one in November.

We would thank our friends to continue their communications—they shall always be attended to, and we would particularly thank them to forward us the returns of the election immediately after it is over. The postage on all letters containing returns will be cheerfully paid by us. We assure our democratic friends and patrons that our cause is ONWARD! Throughout the entire South the prospect is most cheering. Mr. Van Buren's Administration will triumph—his recommendations will be carried out by Congress. He is sustained by the same party that elected Thomas Jefferson in 1800, and Andrew Jackson in 1828, and there can be no fears of his success. Let us but do our duty in November next, and Mississippi will stand in the front rank of the begin of democracy.—To the poll then, freemen of Mississippi and show your federal opponents that neither panics, nor pressures, nor whig misrepresentations can drive you from the support of your long cherished principles.

THE WHIGS AGAIN IN A QUANDARY.

Who's to be the Whig candidate for Governor, the real Simon Pure who is to unite all the fractions of the pie bald whig party, the nullifiers, the feds, the bankites, the Clay men and the Webster men! "That is the question" and it is one we are utterly unable to answer. Will they take Col. Grinnall, a gentleman in every sense of the term, and a man of talents? The nullies say no.—He has denounced their favorite doctrine as heretical, and is of course "no go" with them. Will Dr. Morgan answer? The Argus and the Southern Whig have raised his flag, but he has rather too strong a spice of nullification about him to go down with the feds and bankites, some of whom declare they will vote for Grinnall "any how." Will Leebetter do. Oh, no! He is too little known, they all declare, and has no weight of character. Who then will serve their turn? Really, gentlemen of the Whig party you are in a sad quandary notwithstanding all your caucuses and Conventions. You would perhaps do well to "rub out" and begin again.—Take up some new man, Acee or Quitman, for instance either of them would no doubt serve, if elected. As the matter stands, even if you had a majority you could not succeed; and with a clear and undoubted majority of some five thousand against you, you must indeed hope against hope if you believe there is a possibility of electing a whig Governor.

What a contrast to these miserable divisions of the whigs does the democratic party present! It is cheering to reflect upon it. We shall go in one united unbroken phalanx for Alexander G. McNutt, and any of the nullifiers will go with us. We have implicit confidence in his ability to manage the helm of State, in the purity and integrity of his character as a gentleman, and the orthodoxodoxy of his political principles. The tide of public opinion is setting in his favor with irresistible force, in all parts of the State, as the various extracts from letters which we give to day will show. The quandaries, and divisions and heart-burning existing among such a heterogeneous mass as compose the self-styled whig party ought not to be wondered at—it is the necessary consequence of the discordant elements which compose the mass. They would be defeated even if they had the majority, which they clearly have not.

We republish Maj. McNutt's Address to-day. It is a frank, manly and dignified paper—clear and explicit in its statements. Major McNutt discusses all the important political topics of the day with an ability which must recommend him to every citizen in the State. We beg all our readers, particularly those who have not had the good fortune to hear the Major in person, to give his Address an attentive perusal. It will speak for itself and does not need comment.

WILL M. SMITH, Esq., the proprietor and senior editor of the Grand Gulf Advertiser, has been elected to represent the county of Claiborne in the Legislature. Mr. S. has labored efficiently in the cause of democracy. We shall expect much from his talents and influence if elected to the station. Were it not for the fact that he has a talented associate editor in the person of John D. Freeman, Esq., we should regret to have him leave his post. A letter just received from that county informs us that the "democrats are true to a man. The Message of the President has taken well. Huzza for the little Magician."

The more quietly and peaceably we get on, the better for our cause. Let us be patient, our neighbors. In nine cases out of ten, the wisest course is, if one cheat you, to quit dealing with him; if he is abusive, to quit his company. If he slanders you take care so to live as that nobody will believe him; no matter who he is, or how he misuses you, the wisest way is generally just let him alone. There is nothing better than this cool, quiet way of dealing with the wrongs we meet.

It is said that in the town of Marblehead, the girls have made improvements in ironing which beat the steam engines or common rail roads all hollow!—They spread out all the clothes on a smooth platform and fasten the flat irons on their feet, and skate over them, ad libitum.

Nobody ventures upon the high sea of public life, without becoming sooner or later sea-sick.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Pontotoc.

"Mr. Prentiss has spoken here to-day (Sept. 30) at full length; I do not believe he makes any converts, though he is listened to with much attention. He was answered by Gen. Davis. The General held him up to the constitutionality of a Bank, and sustained the President's message. The vote, from all I can learn, will not be materially changed at the November election.

McNutt is safe. He will receive a large vote. Benson, Saunders, Thompson and Fall, will all receive a large vote." Yours &c.

From Holly Springs.

"Marshall is the Empire county, and you will find her true to the principles of democracy at the election in November. McNutt will get a triumphant vote—nothing can shake his popularity. He was the staunch friend of the New Counties in our day of trial, and he will not be forgotten. All the democratic candidates will receive large majorities.

"Our townsmen, Judge Huling, whom the nullifiers and whigs have had the presumption to place with Prentiss on the Congressional ticket, is a sound Van Buren man. The opposition are very unfortunate in their choice of men. Huling cannot consent to associate with such a man as Prentiss."

From Gallatin, Coniah County.

"The democracy were never in better spirits. There was a little halting at the last Congressional election, but the party was one as dead at the trial in November. I was one of those who voted for Acee, the rank nullifier. His six, because I saw him around on the ticket with C. Benson. I never will vote for him again. Mr. A. G. Benson either, I do not like him."

"Major McNutt has a great many devoted friends here—Morgan, the South Carolina Nullifier, is not known to one-twentieth of the voters. Grinnall will get the opposition vote generally. The slanders of Gen. Foote in regard to Major McNutt has gained a great many friends to our cause. We all know Foote here. He has loved the political compass—been every thing by turns, and nothing long."

From Vicksburg.

"The democrats here are few in number, but true to a man. The President's message is the true democratic doctrine and fully meets our expectations, and so far as I have learned, the expectations of all our party. Nick & Co. will find no quarters, nor the whig plaster party either. Huzzah for the Magician!"

"Capt. Quitman, *brave man* who never fought at San Jacinto, has become a real Boston tea party. For a purpose of specie which the honorable gentleman had in his breast pocket on a recent occasion, he would have had such a breach made in his breast about the groin, that he might have now been feasting with Pluto somewhere near the river of Styx. But I am rejoiced that the dear Captain was not seriously injured—the whigs could spare most of their aspirants better. By-the-by he kills every cause with which he connects himself, and it is a fine thing for the democrats. "Long life to the gallant Parson!"

From Brandon, Rankin County.

"Major McNutt addressed the people of our county recently. It was the first time I ever heard him speak. He has a grand mind, stored with the political history of his country. Depend upon it, he will be the strongest candidate the democrats of Mississippi have united on for years. His course is straight forward and unswerving. Our county will give him a handsome vote in November. Grinnall is supported by the press at this place. Dr. Morgan is not known here sufficiently, to get twenty votes."

From Ripley, Tippah County.

"We are up and doing here. The democrats are eager to give a demonstration of their adherence to correct principles. The 'spoils' opposition will be 'moved up' next Monday on the first Monday and Tuesday in November. Hon. A. G. McNutt made an impression here which will be responded to at the ballot box. Recently traveled through four of the adjoining counties, mingled a good deal with the people, and found they were all right. I feel confident of my election. You know I am opposed to all banks, as at present managed. The people are with us."

From Fulton, Itawamba county.

"There are no changes here. The democrats of Itawamba will march up to the ballot box in November next in a solid phalanx, and deposit their votes for the candidates of their choice. We have read our bibles, and no thanks to the benighted wings of the Colonization Bible Society, who introduced a resolution to supply us with the scriptures. We took a special dinner here a few days since, the produce of which was sent to you for publication. The trip was well spent, and we were warmly greeted by the people. I shall 'go on' to the polls of 20th in November."

From Jones, Tishomingo county.

"The county, you may depend, will be as unanimous as ever. You will please send four copies of your paper to the gentlemen whose names are below. The address is A. G. McNutt, Esq., which you sent me, were read with avidity; our minds are laid. I have received but two of your papers for the last six weeks; we live in hopes of better times. As soon as the new mail contracts are put in operation, you will obtain a large number of subscribers in this county, for our population are anti-bank democrats to the backbone. We shall give the democratic candidates for the State office a larger vote than we did Claiborne and Gibson in July. The speech of Major McNutt in favor of the new county representation has secured for him the good will of all the Chickasaws: "He went for us; we go for him."

Passionate men are like persons standing on their heads—they see every thing the wrong way. The father of a boy whose leg was broken by an omnibus driver in Paris has recovered 10,000 francs damages from the proprietors.

From Macon, Norube County.

"Many of the nullifiers seem to be much surprised at the course Mr. Callahan is pursuing with regard to the measures recommended in the message. I have believed and still believe to that party, and can really see no just cause for this surprise. The message is in fact a genuine state-right document—accordingly your opinions it takes exactly the true ground. "Let us alone" is the fundamental principle upon which all its arguments are based. I never liked Mr. Van Buren—I did not vote for him, and I still distrust him, but he has taken the true position in his message, and I for one, will sustain him in it. Party prejudice shall not sway me in this matter—I go for my country, and when I see a man boldly come forth as M. V. B. has done, and recommend measures calculated, in my opinion, to advance the best interests of the community, and advocate principles which I have long cherished as the true political faith, I will put my shoulder to the wheel and help him on, be he Satan or Devil. Now, there is no cause for surprise at the course Mr. Callahan is pursuing—it does honor to his consistency and patriotism. But there is cause for surprise that any one professing to be a state right man, should oppose the message, and support a National Bank, an institution at war with the rights of the States; and to cheer violation of the Constitution. I see that the whig candidates for Governor have come out for a Bank—I cannot go with them, and shall cast my vote for McNutt. Heard the speech he delivered in his place some time since, and was entirely satisfied with him. He is an infinitely better state right man than any whig editor in the State. They have all in my opinion proved recalcitrant to their principles." Send me your paper."

I have just received an extract of a letter from our attentive correspondent at Jackson.

"Death has been busy here. Some of our finest young men have passed that bourne from whence no traveller returns." Some of the older citizens, too, have been taken away. Chas. C. Mayson, the Treasurer of the State, died on the 25th ult. His remains were followed to the grave by a large concourse of people. The death of E. D. Dearland, too, was much regretted. We have been, in this moment of gloom, diverted from the political contest. You will have seen the foul slanders which have been set on foot against the democratic candidate for Governor. It will understand here, & will have no other effect than to increase the friends of the democratic cause, M. McNutt is like gold, the more he is rubbed the brighter he shines. Who first propagated these certain slanderous political slanders, opposition to any political cause has heretofore insured its success. Dr. Morgan, Mr. Leebetter, & Col. Grinnall, reside in this county. McNutt, from all I can learn, will beat the whole trio in Hinds county. Like Mr. Leebetter's creature; it is more frank than any of his whig associates—he is getting the better of Morgan, though both are good nullifiers. He has more talent and will make a better Governor—if elected Col. Grinnall, I understand has boasted that he wrote the Governor's messages for six years.—Wonder if he wrote one concerning those "Fellow citizens, I congratulate you on your safe arrival at the seat of government." Oh, lord! as granny says. What governors we might have if the people would only vote for them. More anon."

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From the Vicksburg Register.

Major McNUTT.—We publish a card in another column in relation to a charge which has been circulated against this gentleman; a charge which he can never condescend to notice, and one which has raised the indignation of every man of whatever party, personally acquainted with Mr. McNutt. We know no man, unless it be some personal enemy of this gentleman, who will hesitate for a moment to pronounce the charge without reasonable foundation and the probable offspring of some personal malignity. Judge Montgomery, before whom the trial alluded to was had, Messrs. Prentiss, Hurst and Huston, who were counsel in the case, all connected in any manner with the investigation, so far as we can learn, so far from giving it the least credit or countenance, pronounce the charge utterly unfounded and unworthy of notice except from its violence and malignity. We are politically hostile to Mr. McNutt, and wish to see him defeated; but upon honest and fair grounds. In relation to the effect upon the election, however, the charge is of no manner of consequence, for it cannot gain credit; but it is due to the personal feelings and unshaken moral integrity of Mr. McNutt that we should allude to the subject.—We were never more astonished than we were when we saw this charge against a townsman, who, whatever may be said of his political career, sustains at home where we know him, a character for moral integrity which is without reproach, and we feel that we do him far less than justice when we make with others in an unqualified expression of confidence in him as a good citizen and an honest man.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Understanding a report has been industriously circulated (by some artful and designing individuals) derogatory to the character of Alexander G. McNutt, Esq., charging him with being accessory to the murder of Joel Cameron, who was killed by his own slaves some several years past, and as such a report may have a tendency to injure Mr. McNutt in the opinions of those who may be entirely unacquainted with the facts attending this sad and fatal affair, we do hereby, in justice to Mr. McNutt, and altogether unasked for by him, but actuated by a sense of duty which every individual owes to an innocent and persecuted fellow citizen, publish the following card viz: The undersigned, who were members of the county Court of Warren county and State of Mississippi, before whom certain negro slaves were tried for the murder of their master, Joel Cameron, do hereby certify that during the whole examination of that protracted and tedious trial there was not the least insinuation from any of the numerous witnesses examined, nor from the parties accused, which could by the most strained construction go to attach any participation or shadow of the same upon Mr. McNutt in that sad catastrophe; and further, we have never heard such a thing even so much as hinted at until within a few days past.

We furthermore state that we have been personally and intimately acquainted with Major McNutt for the last twelve years and can say with truth that his character as a gentleman stands unimpaired, and we venture the assertion that no man of respectability in our county is acquainted with Mr. McNutt, would even for a moment believe that he could be guilty of such an ignominious and disgraceful act as the one charged upon him.

We rank not among Mr. McNutt's political friends, and neither are we "new born babies," but on the contrary are and have always been opposed to him in politics, still we should consider ourselves recreant to a sense of duty were we to withhold from him that which every innocent and persecuted individual (as we consider Mr. McNutt to be) is justly entitled to.

JOHN LANE,
JAS. BLAND,
[Sealed.]

Vicksburg, Sept. 15, 1837.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MISSISSIPPI.

In the Mississippi of Friday last we have seen an article declaring that a charge of a serious character was made on Wednesday last by Gen. H. S. Foote against A. G. McNutt, Esq. This charge was that Major McNutt had conspired with the slaves of Joel Cameron to murder their master, and that after the murder he had procured witnesses to swear falsely and thus place the responsibility of his own guilt upon the heads of others. We understand that Gen. Foote only repeated this charge as having originated with Mercer Byrd, a free negro, who was being as necessary to the murder of Mr. Cameron—Gen. Foote also refused or declined to give the authority of his belief to this charge, but repeated it as coming from Byrd under circumstances of peculiar solemnity.

The circumstances of Joel Cameron's murder, though a few years have elapsed, are fresh in the memory of almost every person in the county of Warren, and as they are few, simple, and well-attested, we will give them to the world. The slaves of Joel Cameron murdered him in the spring of the year 1832. Great indeed was the excitement, and the coroner's inquest was summoned from the most intelligent citizens of Warren county. After a full investigation some three of the slaves of Joel Cameron were arrested as the perpetrators, and Mercer Byrd, a free negro who lived in the vicinity, as necessary to the offense. Major McNutt who was a partner of Joel Cameron, undertook the management of his affairs, and consequently took upon himself the burden of the prosecution. Indeed from the beginning of the affair, Major McNutt, by his active and judicious management, which led to discovery, showed his determination to bring to punishment the murderers. A short time only elapsed before the slaves were brought to trial and hung. It was otherwise with Mercer Byrd; able counsel was employed in his defence, and Major McNutt employed counsel in the prosecution. The case of Byrd was tried before a petit jury three times; the first time the jury were hung, the second time he was convicted, and from some informality in the proceedings, the Supreme Court ordered a new trial. A change of venue was then procured, and the case was moved to Hinds county, where Byrd was again convicted, and finally hung. During all these investigations before the coroner's inquest, the Grand Jury and three petit juries, this charge had slept in the brain of Mercer Byrd. Had there been any worthy reason to suspect A. G. McNutt, would not the counsel of Byrd, who showed such zeal in his defence, have seized upon the circumstances, and thus destroyed the prosecution? Could all these various investiga-

tions upon that subject, possibly have been had, and the guilty have escaped not merely detection but even suspicion?

These, fellow-citizens, are the circumstances, in a few words, attending the unfortunate fate of Joel Cameron, and these circumstances are strong as proofs of holy writ to stamp with deserved infamy this slander upon the fame and reputation of our neighbor and friend Alexander G. McNutt. These facts are given to you upon the authority of names well known in Warren county, by men who have known Alexander G. McNutt well and intimately. Let no man say that this card is published to bolster up the reputation of a political aspirant. Every man who signs this paper is that of a Whig, in the mind of a man who would lend all his energies to the success of the Whig cause.

It was Major McNutt's intention to have answered his charge himself; we have advised him not to do so, and he submitted to the judgment of his friends. It is the duty of every man in Warren county to repel this charge.

The people of Warren, who had been eye and ear witnesses of all these circumstances, never suspected the purity of Major McNutt's conduct in the whole investigation and prosecution. Alas! for all the circumstances were before the people of this county, and they possessed of every fact, they sent Major McNutt to the Senate, where he was elected presiding officer of that body—Jas